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Hotel workers were privy to excellent tourism results



ORANJESTAD -- Last week Aruba Minister of Tourism met with a large group of hotel employees to share with them the tourism results that have recently been made public.

A comparison between 2011 and 2010 shows a 5% increase in the amount of visitors to the island approaching some 871,346 visitors. This number is above the target that the government had for the year, which was set at 3%. This means that we almost doubled the set target. What's more, they claim that Aruba's tourism increase surpassed that of the Caribbean. The Caribbean, in its totality, had a 3.9% increase while the world level was 4.6%.

Not only did Aruba register an increase in visitors to the island, the tourism receipts in 2011 also grew by 8.6%, while the Caribbean tourism average receipt grew by 1.3% and the world level saw a growth of 3.9% in total tourism receipts.

The ADR (average daily room rate) in the Caribbean was US\$163.31 which was an increase of 2.7% in 2011, while for Aruba this was US\$194.90, an increase of 7.2%. With respect to (REV PAR) revenue per available room for the Caribbean this stood at US\$101.16 which represents an increase of 5.6%, while for Aruba this was US\$146.02 and represents an



increase of 8.4% compared to 2010. This means, almost 45 dollars higher than our competition. The rate of occupancy in the Caribbean was an average of 61.9%, while for Aruba our occupancy average was 74.9%.

According to the Minister, these results are logical because Aruba chose not to compete by selling rooms at reduced prices, 60, 70, 80 dollars; instead Aruba chose to focus on a higher level and to compete for quality.

Obama warns U.S. will 'do what we must' on Iran



The president's stern comments closely echoed his past warnings, and stopped short of drawing the clear "red line" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sought from Washington. (see story on page 6)

Apologies

The Morning News Aruba would like to apologize to all its clients and faithful readers for the fact that, due to mechanical problems, our Wednesday issue can not be published.

However tomorrow all our clients will receive their newspaper normally.

The Morning News Aruba thanks everyone for their understanding.




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Third payment due date for land tax is Monday!

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Tax Office has issued its publication informing the general public of the due date for the third payment of all local land taxes. The official due date is September 30, 2012; however, because this date falls on a Sunday, they have moved the due date up to Monday, October 1st.

Invoices for 2012 land taxes are dated July 27, 2012 and persons can choose to pay the amount in full or in increments of four. According to the law, the first and second due period is one month after receiving the bill, which was August 27th, 2012. The third and fourth pay periods fall on September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012. For the third payment, clients are required to pay 25% of the invoiced amount. So that by October 1st, the client must have paid 75% of the invoiced bill. This is for those clients who do not have a special payment arrangement with the Tax Office.

Payment Arrangement:

Those having financial difficulty can request a special payment arrangement for a 12 month payment plan. For a payment plan longer than 12 months will require the consideration and approval of one of the tax specialists at the Tax Office.

Possible Restitution:

In the event the client is expecting restitution from a previous payment, and wishes to credit this to his outstanding invoice, the following conditions apply:

1. he must submit a written petition with a calculation of what will be the size of the expected restitution

2. he must have submitted all income tax return forms up to and including 2011

This petition will be duly evaluated and if honored, the client will pay the invoice when the definite income tax returns invoice is issued showing that there will be restitution. In such case the restitution will be deducted from the land tax invoice.

In the event of non-payment:

In the event a client does not pay according to the time line or does not pay the required amount, the Tax Office may insist full payment be made immediately after the payment due date. Hence, it is important to make payment in accordance with the law. This will prevent any unnecessary inconveniences.

For more information regarding these arrangements, please consult the Customer Service section of the main office at Camacuri 2 or the Government Office in San Nicolas.

Aruba YMCA says thanks to Boolchand's!



equipment. Anky Vrolijk expressed, in name of the staff, Board and personnel, the heartfelt gratitude of the YMCA to Ravee Nandwani for their generosity.

Aruba YMCA has two clubs, one in Dakota and one in San Nicolas. They both provide activities to benefit whole families but with a focus on our youth. The Y's activities include such activities as, the "tra'i merdia" which is a school homework guidance program, open air recreation, basketball court, etc. This year they organized a special vacation camp for our 60+ plussers from Club Kibrahacha, which was a first time for the YMCA

Aruba YMCA was simply delighted for having been chosen by Boolchand's to be the recipient of a much-needed gift. The gift was made possible by a special Back2School campaign which Boolchand's organized. For every purchase of a computer set during the school vacation, from July 6 to August 31, Boolchand's treated every purchaser with a free memory stick, a carrying case and an anti-virus program. They also decided to allocate a percentage of

every sale to the YMCA. According to Boolchand's Ravee Nandwani, they considered various foundations, but finally decided that the YMCA should be the recipient, they wanted to contribute to the work that the YMCA is doing for the youth of Aruba.

Secretary General of the YMCA, Anky Vrolijk, indicated that Boolchand's donation could not have come at a better time when they are working on their structure and have so many needs for

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Central Bank reports on tourism results



ORANJESTAD -- In his report to hotel workers on the results of our tourism for the past quarter, Minister of Tourism Oduber indicated that the American market was a particular challenge for them at this time. The Latin American market did very well. It is expected that by the end of the year the American market will level out compared to the results of last year.

According to the Minister, the report from Central Bank is significant. Central Bank

reports that Aruba had an increase in tourism receipts in this last quarter of 4.4%. Last year's increase according to Central bank was 8.6%.

He sighted that these positive outcomes have a positive influence on Aruba's ratings, for example, the Fitch rating and the Standard & Poor ratings which have been positive despite the negative developments of the Valero refinery.

AHATA shows an increase in their RevPar which is approaching 5.5%. With respect

to cruise tourism, there we saw a decrease of 1.8%. Yet, in view of what is on the horizons for next year, number of ships and number of visitors, we will surpass 700 thousand cruise visitors, which will be way above our peak of 600 thousand cruise visitors.

All in all the tourism prospects for Aruba could not be brighter for the upcoming season and into the next year, was the impression created by the Aruba Minister of Tourism.

Buy your home now, at a reduced interest rate, and start paying in 6 months!

Aruba Bank will be part of Expo Cas this weekend



ORANJESTAD -- This year again, Aruba Bank's Mortgage Advisors will be on site during the Expo Cas event at the Renaissance Convention Center. This weekend, you'll be able to take advantage of Aruba Bank's special offer for a home mortgage, known as the "Breaking News Deal," with an interest rate of just 7.75%.

And as if that isn't enough, Aruba Bank will also give you a coupon to participate in a raffle for an AWG. 5.000,00 gift certificate, which you may invest in electrical appliances for your new home.

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offer on the island of Aruba. You will receive a special interest rate and a period of 30 years to pay it off. Additionally, you don't have to make any mortgage payments in the first six months, which gives you the financial opportunity to save, buy furniture, invest in landscaping and lots more!

Visit Aruba Bank during Expo Cas at booth # 92 and pick up all the information and guidance you need regarding the island's best mortgage offer, at a reduced interest rate with the best payment options.

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CBS Radio Morning Man Dan Taylor broadcasted live from Aruba



Henry and Dan front, Ed and Marriott's Keirsin standing

Over two days, Monday and Tuesday, September 24 and 25, the man who wakes up New York on CBS 101.1 FM, Dan Taylor, greeted commuters with vivid descriptions of beautiful Palm Beach. Taylor and his crew, Ed Easton and Henry Behring, were broadcasting live from the 6 to 10 AM from the patio of the Simply Fish Restaurant at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. This is the third time the top DJ from the nation's #1 radio station has done a live program from Aruba, the last being in 2010.

Aside from Taylor's witty chatter, the station's play list of classic hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s contributes to keeping 'Them' the program people tune to for their morning weather, news and traffic reports. During the two days of broadcasting while on Aruba they were also giving away free trips to the island, for the 101st caller to name the "song of the day."

Taylor expressed that he loves coming back to Aruba to do his show. "I had some idea what to expect the first time; I have friends who have been coming here for years, every year, and they love it. From my

experience, Aruba goes beyond people's expectations of such a destination. The trade winds cool you, the people are so friendly, and when you get away from the resorts you find interesting history and culture. I would recommend everyone do that; explore, try some local food, and get to know the island. I even tried the local beer, Balashi, I think it's great."

Dan welcomed a number of vacationers in the early morning hours for interviews; most were excited to meet their favorite DJ who they listen to faithfully every morning, Monday through Friday. "Talking to the people who are here during the show, you can't help notice how many tell you they have been coming here ten, twenty years or more. They own timesharing, they have traveled to other locations, and for them, Aruba is the best. For Aruba to have over a million visitors a year, with more than 50% repeat guests, says you are doing something right here. That is top of the scale, the best unpaid for advertising you could hope to have."

by Rosalie Klein

Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa celebrates International Housekeeping Week



During the week of September 9 to 15, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa (www.aruba.hyatt.com) celebrated "International Housekeeping Week". The resort celebrated the week with all its Housekeeping Department associates with different fun filled activities, one for every day of the week.

The week started with a breakfast for the Housekeepers. Afterwards the associates enjoyed different activities, among others Bingo and a "Bed Making" competition.

There were lots of raffles and prizes, a potluck" dish that 4 associates of the Housekeeping Department cooked for their colleagues. The celebration took place in the Housekeeping office, which was nicely decorated with balloons and garlands giving it a pleasant ambiance. The associates also enjoyed a BBQ on the resort's patio accompanied by music and dancing.

The Housekeeping Department associates were warmly congratulated – and also served - by other departments.

According to the associates this appreciation week is very important to them; it motivates and encourages them to excel



in their jobs.

Photos show the Housekeeping Department enjoying their week. It is Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Casino & Spa's

way to say 'thank you' to all the associates for their good job performance, their collaboration certainly help exalt the hotel's quality.

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Denis and Gabriela Troconis honored at the Divi Phoenix



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice couple as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Denis and Mrs. Gabriela Troconis who are loyal visitors of the Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. Denis and Gabriela have been coming to Aruba since they were children with their parents, long before they got married. That is why they love the island very much, the friendly people, nice climate and beautiful beaches. The certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jennifer representing the Aruba Divi Phoenix Beach Resort.

Hope for Dutch royals as Prince Johan Friso briefly wakes from coma



There is a glimmer of hope for the Dutch royal family after it was reported that Prince Johan Friso woke briefly from his coma.

Family friend Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday that the prince's wife, Mabel, witnessed her husband opening his eyes to smile at her, before falling back into a coma.

The breakthrough is said to have happened last week and is the only progress in the royal's condition since he was buried under an avalanche in Austria in February.

Speaking to a Dutch TV

channel the Archbishop - who knows Mabel through her time as a human rights activist - added: "It's horrible for her to see her husband in bed inert. I pray for him every day and try to talk to her regularly, so she knows that we support them."

Johan was trapped under the snow for 15 minutes while ski-ing off piste in the resort of Lech - where the Dutch royals traditionally take their winter break.

Since the accident, the 44-year-old royal has been receiving specialist care in London's prestigious Wellington hospital.

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Obama vows before UN to halt Iran bomb

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - President Barack Obama vowed yesterday the United States would not permit Iran to arm itself with nuclear weapons, as the UN General Assembly heard a call for an Arab military intervention in Syria.

Crises across the Middle East dominated the first day of the annual UN summit, with Western leaders trying to increase pressure on Damascus and Iran to abandon confrontation and seek negotiated settlements.

Obama was unequivocal on Iran, which is locked in a standoff with the West over a nuclear program that Washington alleges is designed to produce a weapon that could tip the balance of power in an already volatile region.

"Make no mistake. A nuclear-armed Iran is not a challenge that can be contained. It would threaten the elimination of Israel, the security of Gulf nations, and the stability of the global economy," Obama warned.

"That is why a coalition of countries is holding the Iranian government accountable. And that is why the United States will do what we must to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon," he declared.

Six weeks before he is due to seek re-election, Obama is under pressure on the foreign policy front, with criticism of his handling of the killing of

US diplomats and claims he is not standing closely enough behind Israel.

His speech was designed to counter claims from White House rival Mitt Romney and also to renew his outreach to the Muslim world after two weeks of anti-American violence triggered by a movie trailer that insulted Islam.

Obama said the Arab Spring would lead to improved democracy and living standards in a Middle East region more in line with US values but, while he condemned the film, he insisted no insults could justify violence.

He vowed that the militants who stormed the US consulate in Benghazi on September 11, killing the American ambassador to Libya and three colleagues, would face justice, and said the United States would always defend free speech.

"There are no words that excuse the killing of innocents. There is no video that justifies an attack on an embassy," he said.

"There is no slander that provides an excuse for people to burn a restaurant in Lebanon, or destroy a school in Tunis, or cause death and destruction in Pakistan," he said.

Debate in New York in the run-up to the assembly focused on the violence in Syria and the risk that the Iranian standoff could lead to broader con-

flict if Israel or the United States launched a pre-emptive strike.

Ban also expressed concerns for the mounting tensions surrounding Iran, denouncing what he called: "The shrill war talk of recent weeks."

While Obama took no option off the table in dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions, Ban called on the United Nations to reject threats of military action, warning: "Any such attacks would be devastating."

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is in New York, has shrugged off talk of an attack on his country's nuclear facilities, and insisted that his country will not end he insists is peaceful civilian research.

Competing claims over east Asian islands - most involving China - are exacerbating tensions in region

Photo at right depicts an aerial view of Pagasa Island, which belongs to the disputed Spratly group of islands, claimed by China and Vietnam.

In recent months, territory disputes have erupted between a slew of nations over small islands in the South China Sea, East China Sea, and Sea of Japan. Some of these islands, such as the Spratly and Paracel Islands, are uninhabited, but control over them could give the owner access to huge deposits of oil and gas.

The South China Sea - one of the world's major shipping lanes - is also regarded as one of the major sources of future mineral wealth. Though estimates vary, Bloomberg reported the region may have as much oil as Saudi Arabia.

Russia slams EU parliament over Pussy Riot prize nomination

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia slammed yesterday a group of European Parliament lawmakers for nominating jailed members of the punk band Pussy Riot for a rights prize, saying the move interfered with the Russian government's work.

The Russian foreign ministry issued a tough-worded statement after officials said earlier yesterday that the three jailed members of the all-girl band had made the shortlist of five nominees for the European Parliament's prestigious Sakharov rights prize.

"The initiative by a group of European Parliament deputies can be considered nothing but a crude attempt to interfere with the work of the independent branch of the Russian government and an

endeavour to question a decision of the court that delivered its verdict in due process," it said.

Three Pussy Riot members were sentenced last month to two years in a corrective labour facility for "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred."

The punishment, which caused a global outcry, came after the band burst into the country's main Orthodox cathedral to stage a protest against Russian leader Vladimir Putin in February.

Putin said earlier this month Russia was obliged to protect feelings of religious believers, and the country's parliament earlier in the day called for criminal charges for those who insult believers.



China claims sovereignty over almost all of the massive sea, which covers an area of about 3.5 million square kilometers. This has raised objections from countries including Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei.

Further north, a number of disputes rage over small islands in the Sea of Japan and East China Sea. China and

Japan both claim the Senkaku Islands (known as Diaoyu Islands in Chinese), while South Korea and Japan squabble over the Liancourt Rocks.

The competing disputes over these islands are nothing new - China's territorial claims go back to centuries - but the recent rise in tensions threaten regional stability and with potential global consequences.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Qatar leader calls for Arab military intervention in Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The emir of Qatar yesterday called for an Arab intervention force to be sent to Syria to halt the escalating conflict.

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, a key backer of the Syrian opposition, made the call at the UN General Assembly after UN leader Ban Ki-moon said the conflict had become "calamity" that threatens global peace.

US President Barack Obama called for the international community to join together to end the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

Because of the failure of international efforts to end the war "it is better for Arab countries themselves to intervene out of their humanitarian, political and military duties and do what is necessary to stop the bloodshed," al-Thani told the General Assembly.

The emir cited the precedent of an Arab intervention force sent to Lebanon in the 1970s in a bid to halt that country's civil war. He called the Arab League-backed operation in 1976 "a step that proved to be effective and useful."

The Qatar leader is a fierce critic of Assad whose government has accused Qatar and Saudi Arabia of arming Syrian rebels.

Al-Thani said the 18-month

old Syrian conflict "has reached an unacceptable phase" with a government "that does not hesitate to use all sorts of weapons against its people."

He said intervention was needed because all efforts to "get Syria out of the cycle of killing" had been in vain and the UN Security Council has "failed" to take a stand.

Condemnations of Assad marked the opening day of the UN General Assembly of world leaders, as the conflict passes 18 months and the international community remains deadlocked over how to end the bloodshed.

The conflict "is a regional calamity with global ramifications" that needs action by the Security Council, Ban said as he opened the summit.

"The international community should not look the other way as violence spirals out of control," Ban told world leaders, adding that "brutal" rights abuses were being committed by Assad's forces.

The 15-nation Security Council is deadlocked over the conflict which Syrian activists say has left more than 29,000 dead. Russia, Assad's main ally, and China have vetoed three Security Council resolutions which could have led to sanctions against the Syrian government.

Postal Service to move closer to insolvency



WASHINGTON -- At the end of this month, the U.S. Postal Service takes another step toward insolvency. On Sunday, the service is required by law to pay the federal government \$5.6 billion to fund health care benefits for retirees. But it won't do it, because it doesn't have the money. It will be the second time that the service has defaulted on a payment, the first occurring on Aug. 1. Postal workers will still be paid when the service defaults on the retiree health plan payment Sunday, but the service might run out of cash next spring.



ATTENTION

Yom Kippur

In connection with the holy day of Yom Kippur, we announce that:

All our branches will be closed on **Wednesday September 26, 2012** for the whole day.

We wish the Jewish community an easy fast and may you be sealed in the Book of Life.



South Africa strikes spill into transport sector

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - South Africa is struggling to quell a wave of strikes that have crippled the key mining sector and now threaten to spark fuel and food shortages, as transport workers became the latest to go on strike yesterday.

Unions representing an estimated 28,000 truckers said poor pay and conditions had prompted them to launch the latest in a rash of sometimes deadly strikes that threaten to spook investors and curb growth in the emerging nation.

Drivers are seeking a 12-percent wage increase for 2013 and 2014, more than the rate of inflation, which stands at 5.0 percent.

Last week President Jacob Zuma said stoppages in the mining sector in the past nine months had cost the economy close to 4.5 billion rand (\$534 million, 415 million euros).

Firms in the transport and

mining sectors yesterday tried to end the standoffs at the negotiating table, although progress appeared to be slow.

Road Freight Association spokesperson Magretia Brown said no deal had yet been reached with transport workers, but talks were ongoing.

Meanwhile Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) workers, who have been on a wildcat strike which is now on its second week, held their first day of talks. The strike has shut down operations at the world's top platinum producer.

"We expect Anglo American to come with something on the table and if they are unable to do that, the strike will continue and it will be the start of the (formal) strike," said Gadhafi Mdoda, a workers representative.

Amplats had threatened to dismiss the miners, who have been on a two-week wildcat

strike, if they missed work on September 19. Since then however, the company has pushed back the deadline several times. The latest deadline was set for last Monday evening.

Amplats accounts for 38 percent of global platinum production, providing a resource that is key in products ranging from vehicles to jewelry. It is the subsidiary of the country's largest private-sector employer, Anglo American.

Workers are pushing for at least the 11- to 22-percent raises that London-listed Lonmin's miners at the nearby Marikana mine received after a deadly strike that left 46 dead, 35 of whom were killed by police in a day of bloodshed that revived memories of apartheid.

Amplats workers have ditched their labour unions and are representing themselves at the talks.



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Study finds similarities between ovary, breast cancers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new study found marked molecular similarities between breast and ovarian cancer which scientists said could help lead to new treatments for hard-to-treat forms of breast cancer.

The study, which was published online Sunday in the British journal Nature, uncovered pronounced genomic similarities between the basal-like subtype breast cancer and serous ovarian cancer, and as well as similarities in the types and frequency of genetic mutations.

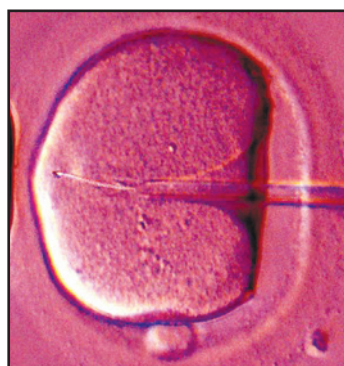
The research found that the two ailments share genomic features that could aid in finding future treatments breast cancer -- the leading cause of cancer deaths among women.

Researchers said findings that the two cancers are of similar molecular origin could help narrow down potential future therapies for related subtypes of breast and ovarian cancers.

The World Health Organization said there are some 1.3 million new cases of breast cancer each year, as well as about 450,000 deaths annually from the disease, which is the most common cancer among women.

Health & Living

Danish sperm donor passes genetic disorder to five children



COPENHAGEN (AFP) - A Danish sperm donor has passed a potentially severe genetic disorder to five children after a screening test failed to catch that he had the disease, health officials said Monday.

The donor transmitted the tumor-producing nerve disorder Neurofibromatosis type I, sometimes known as Von Recklinghausen's disease, to five babies he fathered, said the Copenhagen clinic where he gave sperm, Nordisk Cryobank.

"In the case of these five, we know that the disorder came from the donor," even though the disorder is not always transmitted by a person's par-

ents, said the clinic's director general, Peter Bower.

"I can say that prior to October 2009, this donor has provided sperm to 10 countries inside and outside Europe," Bower told AFP, saying he could not release specifics about where and when the babies were born because of confidentiality rules.

Public broadcaster DR reported that the donor had fathered 43 children at 14 clinics.

Denmark's national health council said because of the cases it would begin limiting the use of sperm from a single donor to 12 pregnancies from October 1 and immediately stop using sperm from any donor suspected of having passed on a genetic disorder.

Neurofibromatosis type I has widely different effects on those who suffer from it. Symptoms can include beige patches on the skin, high blood pressure, bone deformity, scoliosis, learning difficulties and eye problems including tumours on the optic nerve.

Canadian hospitalized with new swine flu



OTTAWA (AFP) A Canadian man has been hospitalized in southwestern Ontario with a new variant of the swine flu virus that caused a 2009 pandemic, a public health official announced Tuesday.

The adult male patient became ill "after close contact with pigs," Ontario's chief medical officer of health, Arlene King, said in a statement.

He is being treated for the influenza virus, which rarely spreads from animals to humans or from humans to humans, and is being closely monitored at an undisclosed hospital, she said.

No information was provided on the man's condition. But the risk of another outbreak was downplayed.

King said the case was "not an unexpected occurrence" and noted that there had been "a number of human infections with variant influenza viruses in the United States over the past year."

In 2009, an H1N1 epidemic erupted in Mexico and spread into a worldwide pan-

demic that caused at least 17,000 deaths.

Military leaders blame school vending machines in US fat fight



**** An organization called Mission: Readiness prepared a report called "Still Too Fat to Fight", where the 300 or so retired generals and admirals hope they will set off alarm bells to call attention to childhood obesity. The report calls for schools across the country to stop selling soda and sugary treats. The report says that 40% of students who buy high-calorie, low-nutrient junk food from school vending machines and cafeteria a la carte lines consume an average of 130 calories a day from those types of foods (candy, chips, cookies, pastries). That's roughly 5% to 10% of the calories kids and teens should eat in a day. Mission: Readiness believes having healthier food in the cafeteria and in vending machines will help slow - or even reverse - rising childhood obesity rates. And healthy children are more likely to grow up to be healthy adults who can serve their country.**

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Sci-Tech

Blackberry going belly up



--Ten years after Research In Motion Ltd, RIM introduced the BlackBerry, its tribe of users has stopped growing. Despite a long-running slump in sales, RIM still managed to sell enough devices to keep adding to the BlackBerry user base, albeit slowly. In August, 2011, they declared they had surpassed 70 million BlackBerry subscribers worldwide; the most recent number, is 78 million.

The reporting of reports second-quarter results for 2012 may confirm that once-phenomenal growth story finally ends. Some analysts believe the total number of BlackBerry users is now declining, as users move to other platforms in greater numbers than they are acquiring new clients.

"This is the first quarter we are expecting zero subscriber growth -- a loss in enterprise [customers] offset by a small gain in international consumer subs," said Kris Thompson of National Bank Financial.

"Starting next quarter, we see the sub base in a downward spiral with BlackBerry 10 potentially slowing [the losses], but we're not holding our breath."

Even if RIM's subscriber figures grow slightly when it reports second-quarter results, observers expect little but grim news from the company over the next few months.

The launch of BlackBerry 10 phones early next year will be a make-or-break move for RIM. Prior to that, Chief Executive Officer Thorsten Heins doesn't have much to show investors, except glimpses of the much-delayed devices. He must also convince developers to stick around. Mr. Heins took to the stage in San Jose to encourage them to create software applications for the company's new devices. However, everyone knows RIM is in a tough spot. The company's market share has collapsed, and with a withered market capitalization of less than \$4-billion,

takeover rumors are rife.

Presently, RIM has little to do but focus its weary workforce on perfecting the new phones, slash costs and lean on the growth RIM is seeing in fast-paced emerging markets. The company could update investors on the results of a strategic review conducted with help from investment banks, but analysts are not anticipating a sale any time soon, or a radical new course of action beyond trying to license the new BlackBerry 10 operating system to other handset makers.

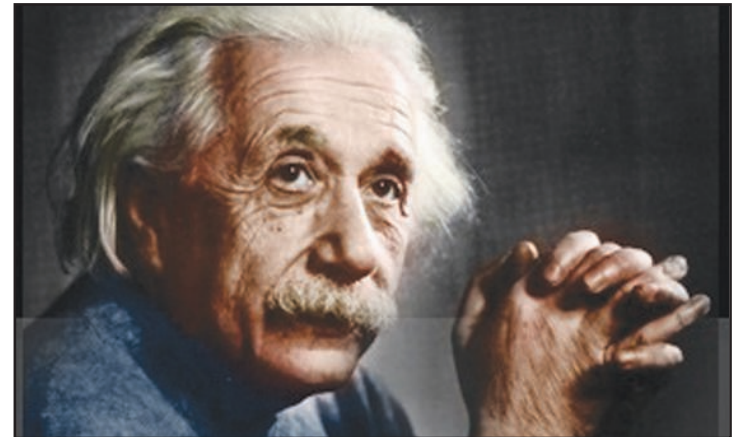
Sameet Kanade, an analyst with Northern Securities, suggested the release of the quarterly results would be a "non-event," given the predictability of falling revenue, fewer devices shipped than in the last quarter, and falling prices for BlackBerrys -- all numbers that reflect the market's preference for other phones.

Analysts expect revenue to slip again to about \$2.5-billion (U.S.) and have forecast shipments of BlackBerrys to fall to between 6.5-million and 7.7-million devices.

Mike Walkley, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity who is bearish on RIM, said his research indicates that cheaper BlackBerrys are still selling well in markets such as Indonesia and the Middle East, but higher-end Bold and Torch models are faring poorly. Low-margin growth in international markets may be the only high point left for RIM these days, despite increased pressure in these markets from Chinese manufacturers such as Huawei Technologies, which sells cheap Android devices.

Mr. Walkley said "With increased global smartphone competition and our belief there is a very low probability the market will support the BB10 system, we believe RIM will ultimately need to sell the company or dramatically change its business model."

App for that? Einstein's brain, in your hand



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Researchers who always marveled at what Albert Einstein was able to do with his brain can now have their own look under the hood: a new iPad application shows slides of his fabled gray matter.

Einstein's brain was removed for study after his death of an aneurysm in 1955 by the pathologist who performed the autopsy on the famed physicist at a Princeton, New Jersey hospital.

The pathologist, Dr Thomas Harvey, segmented Einstein's brain into about 170 parts, roughly grouped by the lobes and brainstem. He then sectioned those parts into hundreds of microscope sections.

The sections were mounted

on microscope slides and stained to highlight cellular structure and nerve conductive tissue.

Harvey's estate donated the collection to the National Museum of Health and Medicine in 2010.

In the spring of 2012, the National Museum of Health + Medicine Chicago (NMHM-Chicago) obtained private funding to begin digitizing the collection.

Now, the slides that have been digitized so far are available on the new app. Sales of the app benefit Department of Defense's National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland, as well as the National Museum of Health and Medicine Chicago.



JAKARTA (AFP) - A rare Sumatran tiger has given birth to three cubs at an Indonesian zoo, an official there said, giving hope for the survival of the endangered species. The eight-year old big cat named Uni gave birth at Taman Rimba zoo in Jambi province on Sumatra island on Saturday but one of the cubs later died, the zoo's head Adriyani, who goes by one name, said. There are now eight tigers in the zoo, Adriyani said. Fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers are left in the wild with several dying each year as a result of traps, poaching or other human actions.

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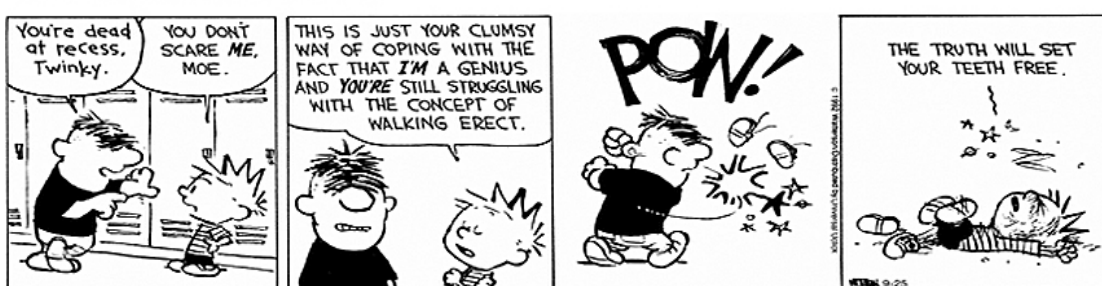
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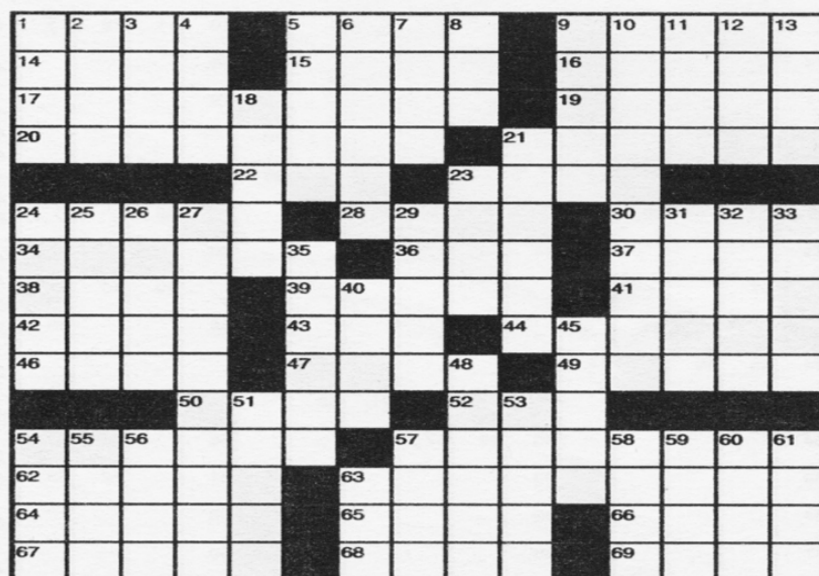
1. Comb's legacy
5. Author Bombeck
9. Young cod
14. Voyaging
15. Warty critter
16. Rotary, for one
17. Some golf swings
19. Lose greenness
20. Urban abode
21. Father Damien's flock
22. "Where the Boys —"
23. Miller, e.g.
24. Swinelike endangered species
28. Running back's unit
30. "Tiny Bubbles" backups, for short
34. Sports contests
36. Bring up the rear
37. Near, poetically
38. Have a fit
39. Choice
41. "SNL" alum Dunn
42. What Tevye wanted to be
43. Shad —
44. Simmered
46. Skipper's shout
47. Belgian city
49. Emulate Patrick Henry
50. Abridge a photo
52. Attention-getting sound
54. Biblical land
57. Like the tundra
62. Completely

DOWN

63. "Alvin's Harmonica" singers
64. Take the honey and run
65. Paul of "The Good Earth"
66. Russian veto
67. Mistake
68. Nora's pet
69. Some marbles
1. Formal agreement
2. "A Hard Road to Glory" author
3. Restraint
4. Binding strip
5. Passé anesthetic
6. Garland's frequent costar
7. Marshal

8. Madison Ave. creations
9. Mall madness
10. Casino gofer
11. "Billy the Kid" prop
12. Unique person
13. Family rooms
18. Brainy
21. Mantels
23. Little pest
24. Earth: Lat.
25. Profit
26. English coppers
27. Sitting pretty
29. Dick Solomon or Mork
31. Oklahoma Indian
32. White heron
33. Awning's product
35. Sunday delivery
40. Airshow

45. Indian emblem
48. Tear up the track
51. Dancer Jeanmaire
53. Shade of brown
54. Highlander
55. Spanish stew
56. Hog chow
57. Therefore
58. Fontanne's partner
59. New Age singer from Ireland
60. Depict unfairly
61. Former jet-setting jets
63. Nashville-based awards group



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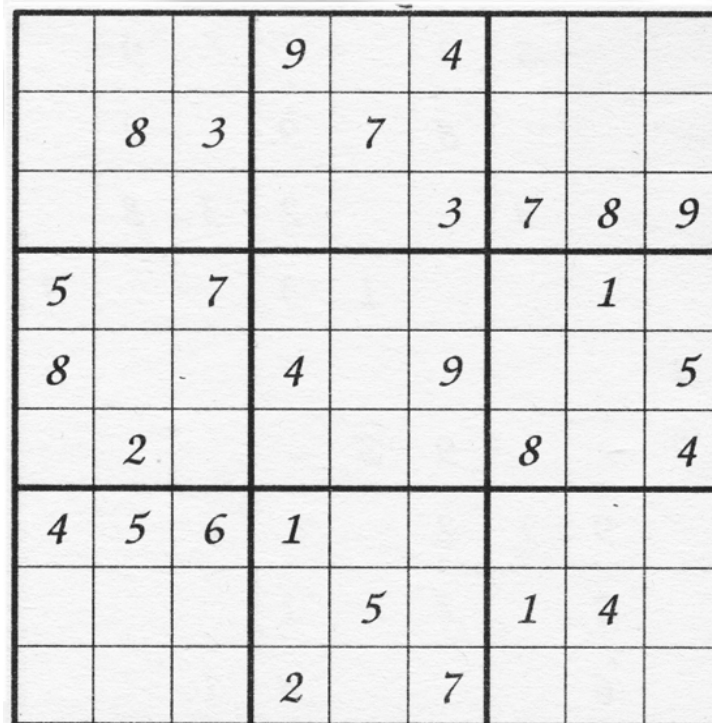
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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8	4	1	9	5	3	6	7	2
1	7	3	8	6	1	9	5	2
5	9	8	5	1	2	6	7	3
3	1	6	7	9	8	2	4	5
6	8	1	3	2	5	7	1	9
2	5	7	1	2	9	3	8	6
1	3	9	6	8	5	4	2	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Ford to cut hundreds of jobs in Europe

NEW YORK (AFP) - US automaker Ford said yesterday it was planning to cut "several hundred" salaried positions from its workforce in Europe, but that all the cuts would be voluntary.

"The reductions will be achieved through a combination of voluntary Ford salaried staff separations, and reductions in expenditure on agency workers and purchased services," Ford Motor Co. said in a statement.

Ford called the cuts part of an ongoing program "to achieve greater efficiencies in all areas of the Ford of Europe business in the current business environment."

ness environment."

"Ford of Europe expects the programs to result in the reduction of several hundred salaried positions, but exact figures won't be known for a few months."

Ford currently employs about 66,000 workers in Europe, the largest proportion of them in Germany.

All the major automakers operating in Europe have been undertaking staff reductions to cope with the contracting European economy and a sizable production overcapacity.

Last week the ACEA European manufacturers association said that new car sales in the European Union were down 7.1 percent for the first eight months of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011.

In July Ford warned of major cuts to its European operations as a 19 percent drop in sales hit profits.

At the time chief executive Alan Mulally said Europe's troubles run deeper than the current economic crisis and cautioned that all automakers must address the region's serious problems with overcapacity.

"This is a structural issue, not a cyclical issue. It's not going to come back fast and we're not going to be saved by volume," Mulally said.



Germany, Europe's biggest economy will continue to grow next year but at a slower pace than in 2012, Germany's leading industry group BDI said yesterday. BDI President Hans-Peter Keitel added that there was no reason to expect an economic slump next year despite ongoing worries about the effects of the euro zone debt crisis.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



US unveils Make it in America contest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Obama administration unveiled yesterday a \$40 million Make it in America contest aimed at encouraging companies to bring jobs back from overseas and boosting foreign direct investment.

"More and more businesses are choosing to invest, create jobs, and make things here in America, and this new initiative represents the latest effort by the Obama administration to build on that trend," Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank said in a statement.

The department said companies eligible for an award must have a project to encourage insourcing, either through on-shoring of productive activity by US firms, fostering increased foreign investment into the United States, or incentivizing US companies to keep their businesses and jobs at home. Training local workers to meet the needs of those businesses and the project's sustainability were also among the criteria.

The announcement of the Make it in America Challenge came six weeks before the November 6 election.

President Barack Obama is fighting a tight race for re-election against Republican rival Mitt Romney in a campaign dominated by voters' concerns about the sluggish economy and, particularly, persistently high unemployment.

Detailed application guidelines for the Make it in America grant funding will be published by early 2013, the Commerce Department said. The initiative is expected to give out roughly 15 awards.

Britain's banks say ready to give up Libor rate role

LONDON (AFP) - The British Bankers' Association (BBA) said yesterday that it was willing to give up its role of setting the Libor interest rate in the wake of a rigging scandal that rocked Barclays.

The announcement by the bank lobby group followed reports that a review of Libor by Martin Wheatley, managing director of Britain's financial regulator, will on Friday call for the BBA to lose the pivotal rate-setting role.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 09/25/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.80	1.82	1.84
Britain	GBP	2.83	2.88	2.94
Switzerland	CHF	190.31	191.03	191.83
Netherlands	EUR	228.24	230.33	232.64
Sweden	SEK	26.20	26.92	27.72
Denmark	DKK	29.92	30.64	31.44
Norway	NOK	30.16	30.88	31.68
Japan (per 100)	JPY	226.95	229.02	231.32

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Brazil president defends right to protect economy

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff yesterday defended the right of developing countries to protect their economies, rebutting US and EU charges of protectionism in a speech to the UN General Assembly.

"We cannot accept that legitimate trade measures in defense of developing countries are unjustly classified as protectionism," Rousseff told the annual gathering of world leaders.

The first leader to take the podium at the UN headquarters, Rousseff said the measures Brazil had taken were allowed under the rules of the World Trade Organization.

Brazil and the United States are locked in a bitter trade dispute in the wake of Rousseff's

decision to raise import tariffs on more than 100 products.

She blasted the loose monetary policies of the world's rich countries for causing "an artificial appreciation" of the currencies of emerging countries, hurting their exports and exposing their domestic economies to competition from cheap imports.

"Monetary policy cannot be the only response to growing unemployment, the increase in poverty and the lack of a future that affects the most vulnerable segments of the world's population," she said.

The United States in particular has relied heavily on monetary easing since the economic crisis in 2008 to deal with a deep recession and prolonged sluggish growth.



Dmitry Golitsyn (C) of Moscow stands in a new latchfree dipper at the Caterpillar booth during MINExpo International 2012 trade show at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada September 24, 2012. Caterpillar Inc, the world's largest maker of Caterpillar, cut its 2015 earnings forecast on Monday, becoming the latest heavyweight in Corporate America to sound alarms on the sluggish global economic recovery. The world's largest maker of earth-moving equipment stopped short of forecasting a global recession, but warned of a bigger-than-expected fall-off in demand for its products over the next few years because of weaker commodity prices.

Chile shutters 95-year-old state newspaper



SANTIAGO (AFP) - Chile has decided to close the 95-year-old state-run La Nacion newspaper, prompting protests from journalists who say it will effectively concentrate the media in the hands of two private companies.

At a shareholders meeting on Monday representatives of the government -- which owns 70 percent of the daily -- voted

to liquidate the company, a move opposed by minority shareholders and labor unions.

"In the 20 years since the return of democracy, we have seen a newspaper, La Nacion, which is still subordinate to the government in power," said government spokesman Andres Chadwick.

"We believe that this is not suitable and that the govern-

ment does not need its own media outlets," he said, adding that he hoped the outlet would continue to operate independently.

The union of newspaper journalists objected to the move, saying the newspaper was still making money and that its closure would leave two major companies in control of 90% of the country's media.

The newspaper's print edition was halted shortly after President Sebastian Pinera assumed power in 2010, but it continued to produce an online edition. The journalist union said the closure would require terminating 110 employees.

La Nacion was founded in 1917 and taken over by the state a decade later. Chile was governed by a military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet from 1973-1990.

Gianfranco Ferre defiant in Milan despite legal storm



MILAN (AFP) Italian designers label Gianfranco Ferre was defiant in the face of uncertainty over its future on Monday, with a Milan fashion week show which excelled in striking geometric cuts and rich fabrics. It was the brand's last catwalk at its historic Via Pontaccio headquarters, but the ugly legal battle surrounding the struggling label's prospects was temporarily forgotten as a seductive spring/summer 2013 collection emerged. Reports that the label's new owners were planning to move it to Dubai have been flatly denied, but the brand did confirm it will be leaving Via Pontaccio. The label was rescued from bankruptcy in 2011 by the Dubai-based Paris Group retailer, which promised to invest vast amounts to revamp the ailing brand. Concern grew in the months following the sale when the new owners ousted the design team and fired executives, and Ferre's prospects look uncertain. Commissioners appointed by the Italian state to oversee the company's sale have accused the Paris Group, which is owned by the Sankari family, of failing to implement growth plans, particularly after it began closing Ferre stores. They have appealed to a Milan court in a bid to confiscate the label and prevent further damage from being done. But in a furious note published by Paris Group last week, the retailer blamed circumstances out of its control. Ferre ran into difficulty following the death of its founder Gianfranco Ferre -- known as 'the architect of Italian fashion' for his clean, angular lines -- and was forced into government-backed bankruptcy in 2009.

Lindsay Lohan Treated for Lung Issue

--Lindsay Lohan had a health scare on Sunday night that was severe enough to send the 26-year-old actress to the hospital for treatment, but her rep told CNN that the "Liz & Dick" star is on the mend.

It was asthma, Lohan's rep said, that landed the star in a New York City hospital. "Lindsay was treated and released, and is doing fine," the rep said. (According to her mother, Dina, the actress has been treated for "bronchial asthma ever since she was little," as she told The New York Daily News.)

LiLo started to feel sick over the weekend, but she didn't let it interrupt her party plans. She told The New York Post that she was recovering from pneumonia, but didn't want to miss DJ Steve Angello at Size Matters in Central Park.

"I have been really sick with pneumonia but I have been working," Lohan told the paper. "I have been shooting 'Scary Movie' with Charlie Sheen. He was really great to work with and gave me some good advice about surviving in this business."

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Three times lucky at the lotto for Norwegian family



OSLO (AFP) - A Norwegian family has hit the jackpot not once but three times, after winning millions of euros on three separate occasions within the space of only a few years.

Last week, Tord Oksnes became a millionaire at the age of 19 after winning 12.2 million kroner (more than 1.6 million euros or \$2.1 million) on Norway's national lottery, tabloid Verdens Gang (VG) wrote on

Tuesday.

In doing so he became part of a lucrative family tradition that has seen his 26 year-old sister, Hege Jeanette, collect 8.2 million kroner in 2010, only four years after their 58 year-old father Leif won 4.1 million kroner on the same lottery.

The lucky numbers were drawn every time Hege Jeanette was pregnant or had just given birth, VG noted.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

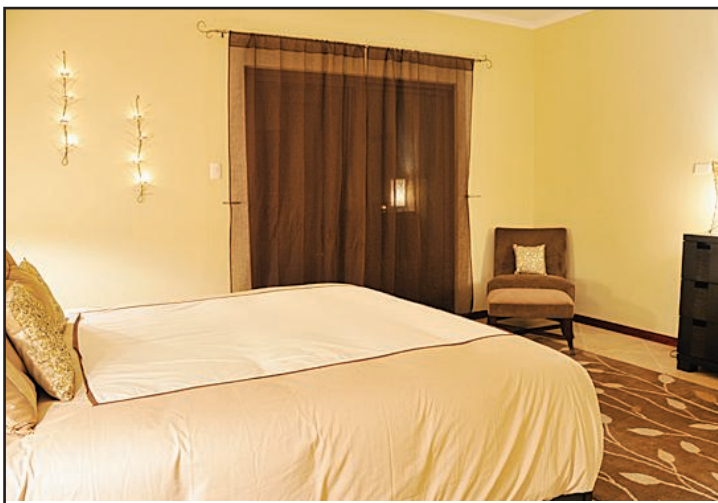
"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans handhome-made potato-beet salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses: Catch of the Day Aruban Style - shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

SPORTS

Swimming: Former Spanish coach accused of abuse



MADRID (AFP) - A group of former Spanish synchronised swimmers have accused their ex-coach of abusive training methods in an open letter published on Tuesday.

Anna Tarres was not kept on after her contract expired on September 6, and the Spanish Swimming Federation (RFEN) unveiled a new coach, Esther Jauma, and a new technical director, Ana Montero, on Tuesday.

Fifteen synchronised swimmers, who all trained under Tarres at some point in their careers, revealed the methods used by their coach in a letter that was published by various Spanish newspapers.

"Today we have decided to come together to tell our story

and give a voice to all the things that, until now, have remained hidden behind all the medals that have been won," they explain in the letter, which is titled, "When evil can be avoided, it would be foolish to just accept it."

Neus Segui, Jordina Pallarols and Julia Casals Martinez, who represented Spain in the pool until 2003, are among the swimmers who describe Tarres as a "despot."

"Somehow, people made us believe that Anna was an immovable object," the letter went on. "You were either with her or against her and if you were against her you could say goodbye to your career."

Fernando Carpena, the president of the RFEN, responded

to the letter by denying any knowledge of the supposed bullying and insisting that the claims dated back to before his term in office, which began in 2008.

In their letter, the swimmers list a variety of different ways in which Tarres humiliated and degraded them.

"You have done well, but you are so fat that I cannot afford to disfigure the team by putting you in it," Tarres allegedly told one swimmer, who wished to remain anonymous but who admitted to later suffering from bulimia because of the comments.

Tarres, a native of Barcelona who competed at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, has insisted that her "conscience is very clear" after Spain won four Olympic medals, 26 world titles and 25 European titles under her tutelage.

"We are partly to blame for having believed for so long that no one would listen to us," the letter went on, explaining why they had not spoken out before. "Spanish sport must not accept, nor feel any pride, at winning medals at absolutely any price."

Football: Bayern cruise on as Dortmund, Frankfurt held

BERLIN (AFP) - Mario Mandzukic scored twice as Bayern Munich hardly faced a challenge in easing past VfL Wolfsburg 3-0 on Tuesday to remain their perfect start to the Bundesliga campaign.

But Eintracht Frankfurt dropped their first points of the season - though they did draw 3-3 against reigning champions Borussia Dortmund.

Bastian Schweinsteiger hit the post twice before giving Bayern the lead in the 24th minute. With Wolfsburg rarely venturing forward, Mandzukic doubled the advantage with a header in the 57th minute.

The Croatian international finished off Wolfsburg for good with his fifth Bundesliga goal of the season in the 65th minute.

Bayern's Peruvian veteran striker Claudio Pizarro meanwhile came on as a substitute late on to make a 337th appearance in the German league - a joint record for a foreign player which he now shares with Brazil's former Bayern star Ze Roberto.

Bayern have a perfect 15 points from five matches and are two points ahead of Frankfurt and seven on Dortmund.

Dortmund went 2-0 up with goals by Lukasz

Piszczek in the 25th minute and Marco Reus in the 28th.

Both goals came via the right flank through Piszczek, who turned inside and had his shot go in off both Bastian Oczipka and Anderson and past Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp for the first.

Piszczek's cross from the right three minutes later found Reus, who ran onto the ball and hammered it home from long distance.

Frankfurt pulled things back with two quickfire goals within 97 seconds on two counter attacks.

Stefan Aigner pulled one back in the 49th minute and Takashi Inui equalised with a header in the 51st off a pass from Aigner.

Dortmund substitute Mario Goetze then snatched the ball from Anderson and then poked his shot past Trapp to make it 3-2 for the titleholders on 54 minutes.

But Anderson made up for his mistake in the 73rd minute with a header to make it 3-3.

Schalke were hardly con-



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Boxing: Haye rules out Ukraine bout amid racism fears

BERLIN (AFP) - Britain's David Haye said Tuesday he would not be fighting Vitali Klitschko in Ukraine because of death threats he has received from 'crazy racists' there.

Haye wants to fight WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko after losing his WBA crown to Klitschko's younger brother Wladimir in Hamburg last year.

But the 31-year-old said that he was only prepared to

box in Germany, where the Klitschko brothers normally fight, and not in Ukraine.

Haye lost the WBA title on points against Vladimir Klitschko in July 2011, in only the second defeat of his career.

He had also talked of hanging up his gloves but got back in the ring on July 14, beating compatriot Dereck Chisora in London.

But Haye is convinced that a bout with Vitali is "the only heavyweight fight that everyone wants to see".

Haye last week accused Vitali of hiding behind the political process to avoid meeting him in the ring.

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Basketball: Yi back in China after NBA journey

BEIJING (AFP) - Yi Jianlian has secured a one-year deal to return to his old club back home after the Chinese international failed to re-sign with the Dallas Mavericks in the US.

The move to Guangdong Tigers leaves no Chinese-born players in the US National Basketball Association (NBA), potentially threatening the league's efforts to build up its following in the huge Asian market.

Yi, a 2.13-metre (seven-foot) power forward, committed to play for the whole of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) 2012-2013 season, the Tigers reported on their website.

The NBA became hugely popular in China during the nine-year career of iconic centre Yao Ming, who retired in 2011.

But Yi, 24, never played a major role on court during his five-year NBA stint, averaging 7.9 points and 4.9 rebounds per game for four different clubs. Last season with the Mavericks, Yi averaged 2.6 points in just 30 games.

"It's a huge pity to spend

his prime years on the bench in the NBA without being trusted," Guangdong general manager Liu Hongjiang said in a statement.

"He wants to play and we can provide an ideal stage."

At the London Olympics Yi was China's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony and the centrepiece of its basketball team, but the side lost all five of their matches and failed to reach the knockout stage.

Before entering the NBA, Yi helped Guangdong to three CBA titles.

Football: Colombian giants may renounce drug-tainted titles



BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's Millonarios, who have won 13 titles - a national record they share with Cali - may renounce the last two, believed obtained with the help of drug-trafficking proceeds, chairman Felipe Gaitan indicated on Tuesday.

Gaitan said the title successes of 1987 and 1988 - their most recent one - could be scratched from the record as it was during those years that drug lords laundered their gains through teams competing in the national championship.

It was during that period that the club was essentially bankrolled by infamous drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who died in a shootout with police in 1989.

Gaitan says the club are looking to disassociate itself from the Gacha era and would therefore consider giving up those titles.

"This is a debate about ethics - very preliminary. For now there remain hours of

analysis and discussion. There is a discussion on the table about the possibility that we only retain those titles which were obtained in legal fashion," Gaitan told Colombian media.

Gaitan was speaking from Spain where he will attend Wednesday's prestige Santiago Bernabeu Trophy encounter between his side and Real Madrid.

However, his comments were not well received by former coach Luis Augusto Garcia, who led the side to the two titles in question.

Garcia told City Noticias he believed that Gaitan "does not know how you go about landing a title."

The former coach added: "It seems an insult," insisting that the championships were "obtained with a group of people and a team (which put in) an immense amount of work."

Argentine Mario Vanemerak, who was one of the stars in the team of that era,

also said he considered Gaitan's comments "senseless."

Vanemerak said he did not want to hand back the championship crowns.

"This is very disturbing for all who were on that team - it really cost us to land those titles."

"If the chairman wants to do so then neither we nor the fans would forgive him as it is offensive," he told Caracol.

Even so, local politicians said they supported Gaitan's proposal.

Other clubs, including Nacional and America, also attracted the proceeds of drug running from the cartels run at the time by the likes of Pablo Escobar and siblings Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela in cities such as Medellin and Cali.

Gacha and Escobar were killed in standoffs with Colombian police, while the Rodriguez brothers were extradited to the United States.

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Pakistan blast Bangladesh out of World T20



PALLEKELE (AFP) - Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight wickets to qualify for the World Twenty20's Super Eights stage at their opponents' expense. Imran Nazir's brilliant 72 and skipper Mohammad Hafeez's 45 took Pakistan past Bangladesh's challenging 175-6 in Pallekele, after already overhauling the target needed to go through on net run-rate. New Zealand had already qualified for the round of eight from Group D. Brief scores: Bangladesh 175-6 in 20 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 84); Pakistan 178-2 in 18.4 overs (Imran Nazir 72)

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NFL: Seahawks edge Packers on controversial touchdown



Golden Tate #81 of the Seattle Seahawks makes the game winning catch as time expired behind a swarm of Green Bay Packers

SEATTLE (AFP) - A controversial touchdown ruling by National Football League replacement officials on the game's final play gave the Seattle Seahawks a 14-12 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Monday.

In a bizarre finish that will put more pressure on NFL owners to end their lockout of regular referees, Seattle's Russell Wilson was credited with a game-winning 24-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate on the last play.

"Don't ask me a question about the officials," Packers coach Mike McCarthy warned reporters after the game.

"Most unusual football game I've been a part of.

Very hard to swallow. I've never seen anything like that in all my years of football. We need to move on."

Wilson scrambled to avoid Packers pass rushers and heaved a desperation toss into the end zone, where three Green Bay defenders and two Seattle receivers leaped into the air and fell into a pile as they tried to grab the ball.

Green Bay defender M.D. Jennings leapt highest and pulled the ball into his chest while Tate also grabbed the ball in his outstretched hands as the group fell to the turf.

"It was just total desperation," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said. "Golden Tate made a great play."

Two officials rushed to

the scene. One made a Seattle touchdown signal. The other signaled a Green Bay interception.

Players grappled for the ball until officials separated the pile, then ruled the play a Seahawk touchdown even though Jennings appeared to have possession first.

"Tough call but tie goes to the offensive guy," Wilson said. "Golden Tate made a heck of a play. A unbelievable catch. It was a huge win for us. I had a feeling it was going to be a touchdown. We came too far for it not to be."

The replay showed Tate shove a defender just before leaping for the ball on the final play.

"I just competed," Tate said. "I just made sure I kept

my hands on it. Me and the defender kept our hands on it. I just fought for it."

A mandatory video replay was made and the ruling was upheld to the delight of the home crowd, sending the Packers off the field in dismay.

"It was awful," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "Just look at the replay. And then the fact it was reviewed. It was awful. It sucks losing and it's even worse when it goes that way. It's frustrating."

Or as Packers offensive lineman T.J. Lang posted on his Twitter account just after the game: "Got (screwed) by the refs.. Embarrassing. Thanks nfl."

The NFL locked out its regular officials in a pay dispute and recruited new referees from the college ranks, although with each passing week the speed and physicality of the pro game has created more problems and controversy.

"Fine me and use the money to pay the regular refs," Lang tweeted.

More than five minutes after the last play, both teams were ordered to send players back onto the field for the mandatory conversion kick, which Seattle's Steven Hauschka made to create the final margin.

"It was crazy after the game," Rodgers said. "Nobody had any idea what was going on."

Reactions on Twitter and

from television commentators made it clear that many NFL fans saw the outcome as the first game where a team lost due to the replacement referees.

"This is the ultimate disaster," NFL television commentator and former NFL quarterback Steve Young said. "Everybody senses this is now affecting the competitive landscape of the NFL and ... it's bringing it down."

"We built something great and we've surrounded it with partners who aren't competent. The NFL is too good for this and it's too big for this and it's hard to watch."

The Seahawks improved to 2-1, while the Packers slid to 1-2 after having lost only one game all of last season.

Cedric Benson scored on a one-yard touchdown run with 8:44 remaining in the fourth quarter to give Green Bay a 12-7 lead, but a two-point conversion pass failed, ensuring the Seahawks could retake the lead by reaching the end zone.

Seattle took the ball after a Green Bay punt with 46 seconds to play needing to march 46 yards for a touchdown, setting the stage for the last-play chaos.

The Seahawks took a 7-0 half-time lead on Wilson's 41-yard touchdown pass to Tate with 6:22 remaining in the second quarter. Green Bay pulled within 7-6 on Mason Crosby's field goals of 29 and 40 yards in the third quarter.